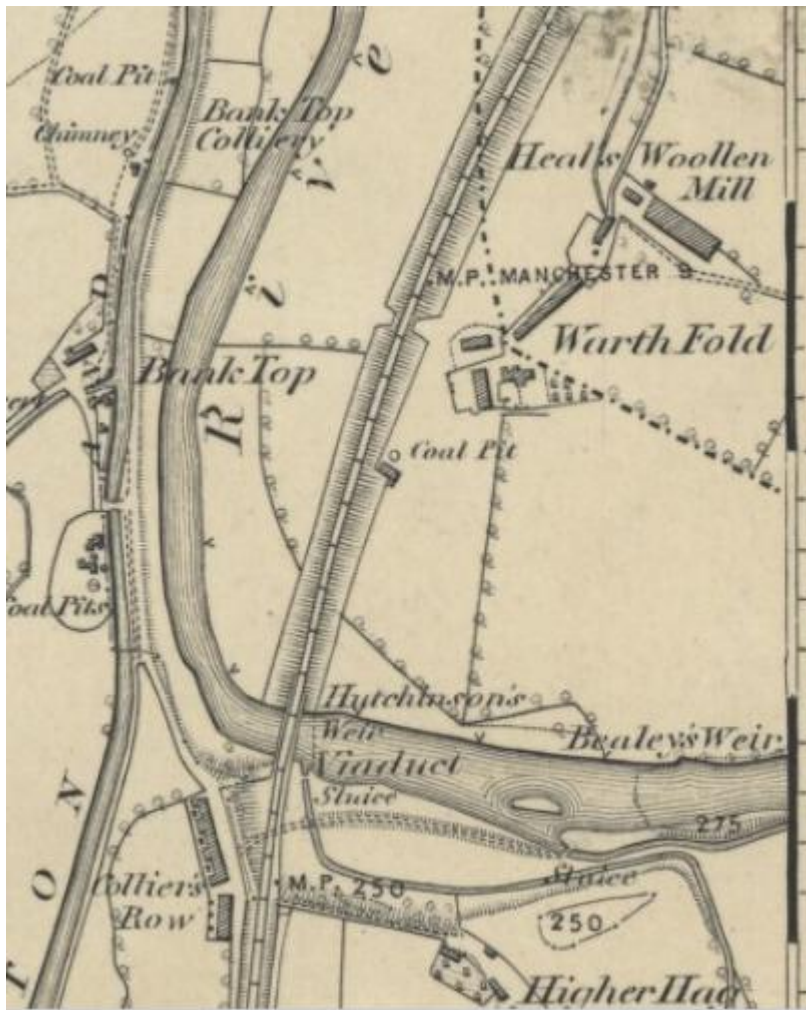


Summary survey of the land and mill buildings at Warth Mill, Bury / Radcliffe border



Ordnance Survey Map, 1846-8

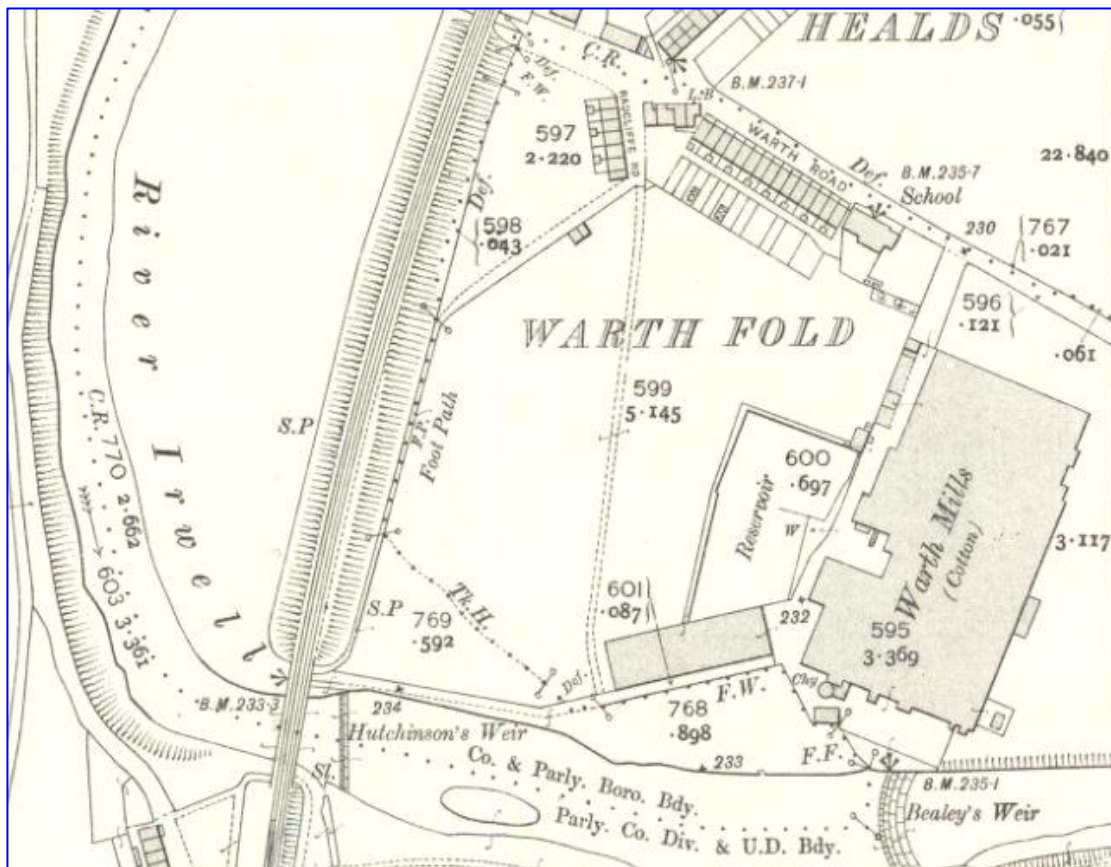
Warth Mill is now an industrial estate rented by numerous businesses, owned overall by property developers St Modwen.

A small hamlet, Warth Fold, pre-dated the mill, and to the north of this was a water-powered mill, 'Heal's Woollen Mill' on the OS map, and a hamlet. The mill disappeared by the end of the 19th century but the hamlet of Warth Fold is still standing.

The earliest references to there being a mill on this exact site date from 1871, by which time the mill had been built and the company of J Mellor had been formed. It has not been possible to date to be more exact about the mill's date of construction.

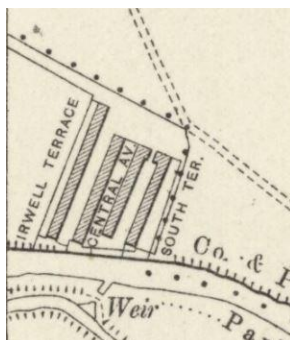
It has all the standard appearance of a brick-built steam-powered mill of 'fire-proof' design, meaning it will probably have an internal steel girder structure with brick arched ceilings, and cinder and ash packed between floor levels.

The impact of the Cotton Famine, 1861-65, linked to the American Civil war, means the construction of the mill is unlikely to be before 1866.

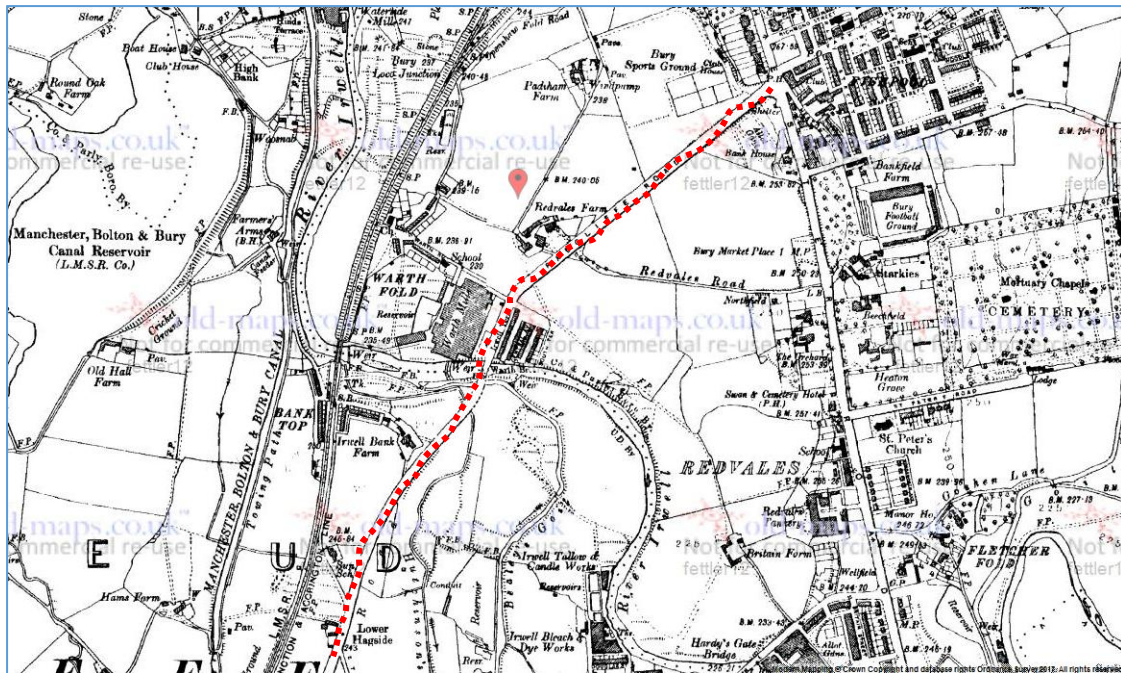


Map of Warth Mill in 1908

Along with the mill, two sets of adjacent housing for workers, and a school were built. The school may also have been used for the 'Mechanic's Institute' that the firm is credited with having built (Worrall's Directory, 1886). One set of model workers' housing still exists today, Central Avenue and Radcliffe Street (formerly Irwell Terrace).



Mill workers' housing at Central Avenue



The new road, Radcliffe Road, 1920s

The mill and surrounding landscape changed very little between the 1870s and 1950s

A new route to Radcliffe was built in the 1920s, and a bridge over the Irwell (still standing), and small developments of suburban housing followed in the 1930s (Lilac Grove).

In the 1950s the area around Warth Mill to the west of Radcliffe Road remained unchanged, as the east side of the road became covered with new housing.

The first major changes to the landscape around the mill took place in the early 1960s, with the creation of a council housing estate, which remains today.

The firm of J Mellor went through a series of directorship changes and liquidations / re-establishments between 1871 and 1948, when it finally closed. During this period only minor physical changes were made to the mill, eg adding new stables, a single-story cotton waste store, and new toilets.

We have not been able to trace to date any details describing changes made to the mill during its period of use as an internment camp and POW camp.

Sources

Ken Howarth, Industrial Archaeology of Radcliffe,
<http://heritagephotoarchive.co.uk/industrialarchaeologyradcliffeirwellgorge.pdf>

Bury Local Studies and Archives, packet of plans for proposals at Warth mill, dated 1930 but containing materials from 1908 (catalogued but not sorted)

Ordnance Survey maps from National Library of Scotland www.nls.uk